who has something serious to say in regard to these questions.

As regards the first part of his question which is an extremely important issue, the Government and the Planning Commission give the highest priority to the whole question of provision of minimum services for people who are below the poverty line and to evolve a strategy to remove poverty and the kind of steps that have to be taken for this purpose. We are happy to report to this House that at the Chief Ministers' Conference, there was unanimity on this question. The Chief Ministers, coming from different States and belonging to different political parties, have appreciated the enhanced allocation for providing the minimum basic services. The enhanced allocation of Rs. 2,500 crores is a fairly substantial sum of money to these identified minimum needs of the poor people. Also our concept that we will give much greater flexibility to the State Governments in deciding which aspect they would like to lay emphasis on, whether it is connectivity, whether it is drinking water, whether it is rural education or whether it is rural health, has to be appreciated. We have every intention of seeing to it that the decisions which were taken by the Chief Ministers in the Conference which was called by the Prime Minister, are implemented in this year's Annual Plan. The Budget has made specific provisions for such things. I would also like to inform the hon. Member that the Approach Paper to the 9th Five Year Plan following the CMP will give a very high priority to the kind of issues that he has raised.

Blowing up of Army Headquarters in Jammu and Kashmir

*302. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attempts to blow up Army Headquarters in Kupwara District of Jammu & Kashmir were reported in April 1996;

(b) if so, whether militant's access to the headquarters is very easy;

(c) whether 12 people, including four militants were killed in these incidents, and the security forces had arrested 20 militants, alongwith the arms and ammunition;

(d) whether the militants had also torched three school buildings and a hut of the Public Health Engineering Department in the Valley; and

(e) if so, the details of these incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) As per the information given by the Ministry of Defence adequate security measures are in place in this regard.

(c) No. Sir.

(d) and (e) According to information provided by the state Government, during the month of April 1996, 7 School buildings were set on fire by militants in J & K, including 2 School buildings in Kupwara. A PHE hut was also set on fire in Kupwara on 23/24.4.96.

SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Sir, my question was whether attempts to blow up the army headquarters at Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir were reported in April 1996. The basis of my question was the report which appeared on the 27th of April in the newspapers. Now, in view of the denial of the Government that such news is not there, my question to the hon. Minister is this. In view of the massive presence of security forces in Jammu and Kashmir, publication of such news adversely affects the morale of not only the security forces but also of the people at large. My question to the hon. Minister will be whether the Minister will take prompt steps to contradict such news in future?

SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN: Sir, as he himself has studied the press report, the question is not whether an attempt was made to blow up the army headquarters in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir in April, 1996. It is not correct. It is not possible to go anywhere near the army headquarters in Kupwara.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is contradicting the newspaper report.

SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN: It is not there in the question. I am contradicting it. It is not true.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is asking a related question. When such reprots come, will the Government contradict then if they are not true?

SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN: Sir, it is not possible to contradict every report unless is brought to our notice. (*Interruptions*) Sir, there are many newspapers. It is not possible to contradict every report. If there is a report and it is brought to the notice of the Government, we will definitely see. Sir, it is a wrong contradiction.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: I think they must do their home work. The report of the army headquarters is clear. It is not as if it is a routine slander business. This is a highly sensitive area. There should have been an enquiry as to why this happened.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, since the question was attempted, the hon. Minister should have been prepared with it. He cannot just say that he cannot say anything.

SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN: That is not the question. You read the question, "whether attempts to blow up Army headquarters in Kupwara District of Jammu and Kashmir were reported in April 1996". My answer is "no".

MR. CHAIRMAN: All you have to say is that in future at least you have to contradict it.

SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN: Yes, Sir it has been brought to the notice of the Government. Definitely we will contradict it. If at all there was a report, let him name the newspaper.

श्रीविष्णुकान्तशास्त्री: माननीयअध्यक्षजी, आपके माध्यम से मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूं कि जो आतंकवादी गतिविधियां घाटी तक सीमित थीं वे निरंतर बढ़ती जा रही हैं।

SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Sir, my second supplementary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am sorry, in the confusion I forgot. Yes, put your second supplementary.

SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: My second supplementary is, according to information provided by the state Government, during the month of April 1996, seven school buildings were set on fire by militants in J & K, including two school buildings in Kupwara. A PHE hut was also set on fire in Kupwara. I also wanted the details thereof. This part of the question is admitted. My next question is, I wanted the details. No details have been given. My question to the hon. Minister will be whether there was any enquiry regarding the adequacy or otherwise of security measures to prevent loss of public property.

SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN: Sir, the Government has taken a number of measures. We have strengthened the secuirty forces there. There were only seven companies in 1990. We have 22 companies in a particular district alone. They have taken a number of measures. Now attacks on the security forces have come down to 40 per cent. So the Government is aware of that and they have taken measures to instill confidence in the people.

SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR (Contd.) My question to the hon. Minister is, whether the Government have taken any measures to protect public buildings, public property? Also, I would like to know from the Minister whether there was any inquiry regarding the adequacy or otherwise of security

measures to protect public property. This is my specific question.

SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN: Sir, security measures have been taken to protect public property (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is asking whether there was any security lapse.

SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN: Sir, there was not security lapse.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Okay.

श्री विष्णु कान्त शास्त्री: महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि यह जो कहा जा रहा है कि कश्मीर घाटी में आंतकवादी स्थिति को उन्होंने बहुत दूर तक नियंत्रित किया है, क्या यह सच है कि डोडा जिला आंतकवादी गतिविधियों से बहुत भयानक रूप से प्रभावित है, अभी पांच-छः दिन पहले ही 13 आदमियों की हत्या यहां कर दी गयी और डोडा जिले में निरंतर एक के बाद एक आतंकवादी घटनाएं घट रही हैं। सरकार डोडा जिले में आंतकवाद को नियंत्रित करने में असफल रही है। उधमपुर और जम्मू में भी यही स्थिति है। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि घाटी के बाहर जो आतंकवादी गतिविधियां बढ़ती जा रही हैं, विशेषकर डोडा जिले में, उसे नियंत्रित करने के लिए सरकार क्या कर रही है?

SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN: Sir, Doda district has a vast area and is one of the biggest districts in India. Its area is about 12,000 sq. kms. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI VISHNU KANT SHASTRI: India itself is a vast country.

SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN: I am coming to that.

It is a mountainous terrain. It is at a height of 12,000 to 16,000 feet and is surrounded by thick forests. There were only 7 companies in Doda district in 1990. Today, there are 22 battalions i.e., 110 companies. After the measures taken by the Government, the crime rate has come down. Attacks on civilians and security personnel have come down by 40%. There is a sizeable augmentation of the security forces from 7 companies to 22 battalions. The number of security pickets in the far-flung areas has been substantially increased. Patrolling operations have been intensified. An additional police district at Ramban has been created and the strength of the police personnel of the district has been augmented. A number of police stations in isolated and far-flung areas which had become non-functional in 1992-93 have been rationalised again. During the past one year over 200 Village Defence Committees have been set up. These Committees have done a commendable job. Again, we are planning to set up 100 more Defence Committees (*Interruptions*).

श्री विष्णु कान्त शास्त्री: मैं कह रहा था कि पिछले सप्ताह ही डोडा जिले में 13 आदमी मारे गये हैं और मंत्री महोदय 1992-93 के आंकड़े दे रहे हैं। पिछले सप्ताह ही वहां पर 13 आदमियों को मार दिया गया है और मुझे सूचना मिली है कि वहां से सैक्योरिटी फोर्सिस को विदड्रा किया गया है। वहां आय दिन आतंकवादी गतिविधियां बढ़ती जा रही हैं। जो 13 आदमी वहां पर मारे गये है, उस संबंध में आप क्या कार्यवाही कर रहे हैं? एक सवाल मेरा यह भी है कि आतंकवाद के द्वारा.....

SHRI MR. CHAIRMAN: You have explained. Please (*Interruptions*). Please, let the Minister answer.

S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN: Sir, we have taken measures. We are trying to apprehend the culprits. A case has been registered and every effort is being made (*Interruptions*). Doda is a vast area it is a hilly terrain, a mountainous area, with thick forests and poeple are living in far-flung areas. Terrorists they are choosing labourers, more particularly, shepherds. I agree that certain people were assassinated. We have taken steps to apprehend the culprits. So far, at least, three people have been apprehended.

श्री विष्णु कांत शास्त्री: डोडा जिले में ....**(व्यवधान)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please (*Interruptions*). Please (*Interruptions*).

The PRIME MINISTER (SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA): Sir, after the elections

to the Lok Sabha, the terrorist activities have increased. We know who is behind all these things.

This whole objective is to see that Assembly elections should not be held in a peaceful manner. They chose different places where these shepherds live in remote areas and try to kill the innocent people. Sir, at the same time, we have also strengthened our security forces in the short span of two months or two-and-a-half months. They have killed notorious terrorist leaders. I can name them. Seven people have been killed by our army people. The army is doing a tremendous and very good job. I would like to assure this House that the Government is aware of the fact and the Government is equally anxious to take all steps to curb these terrorist activities to see that the Assembly elections are held in a peaceful manner. Sir, I can give a number of instances as to what action we have taken and my colleague will give you the details about the actions we have taken. The hon. Member has raised an issue pertaining to April 1996. You were good enough to caution that when such matters appear in the press, they should be immediately contradicted. I do agree. And for matters that happened in April 1996 if contradiction has not been made by the then Government, then I cannot be held responsible. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: That is true but there was a Government.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: How can I? I was not the Prime Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*... I can understand that. I have that much of elementary knowledge. I do not want to blame. In some sections of newspapers it appeared. At that time people heard from ...*(Interruptions)*... We will take it as a word of caution. We will take it as a piece of advice from the Chair.

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: That Government's Chief is a good friend of the Prime Minister.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: We are prepared to contradict when such issues come in the newspapers by giving the correct version and not to derail the entire matter. But at the same time, the people who were behind our back are not from Nepal, they are not from Bhutan, they are only from Pakistan. It is a cold war. They do not want to allow the Assembly elections to be held peacefully. And the Government is going to take all necessary steps to put down the terrorist activities and see that the elections are held in a peaceful and fair manner. I can give you that much of assurance.

श्री विष्णु कान्त शास्त्री: सर, आतंकवाद की क्षतिपूर्ति ...**(व्यवधान)**...

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Tara Charan Majumdar, your time is over. I call the next Member.

SHRI BALBIR SINGH: He has stated that nine militants were killed. How were they killed? Were they arrested and killed or were they killed in an encounter?

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: They were killed in an encounter. Sir, I can give the names, if the Chair permits. I can give the names.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not think it is necessary to give the names.

कुमारी सरोज खापर्डे: सभापति जी, बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद! मुझे यही प्रश्न पूछना था कि लोक सभा के चुनाव के बाद क्या उग्रवाद में कुछ कमी आई है और यदि उग्रवाद में कमी आई है तो इसका असेम्बली के चुनाव पर क्या परिणाम होगा, उसका उत्तर प्रधान मंत्री जी ने दे दिया है। इसलिए अब मेरे पास कोई प्रश्न पूछने के लिए नहीं है।

Development programmes in the States bordering Bangladesh and Myanmar

*303. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTAITON be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Border Areas Development Programme has been